

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-07 MC-02 EB-08 CU-02

IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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CNO WASHDC

DA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//AH-8/

USCINCEUR (ECJ-4/7 SA)

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS US SG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FY 78-79 IMET TRAINING - SENEGAL

1. SUMMARY. SENEGALESE DISPOSITION TOWARD EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH US HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT DURING PAST YEAR IN WAKE OF ANGOLAN EVENTS AND STEPPED-UP PACE OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION. IMPULSE TOWARD CLOSE COOPERATION ENCOMPASSES SECURITY CONCERNS, AS INDICATED BY CONTINUING SUCCESS OF IN-COUNTRY US-SPONSORED ENGLISH TRAINING FOR MILITARY AND BY EXPECTED SENEGALESE ACQUISITION OF US ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT UNDER FMS CREDIT. LANGUAGE PROGRAM HAS FORESEEN SENDING OF ONE OR TWO SENEGALESE MILITARY TO COURSES IN CONUS, BUT GOS NOW SEEKS ADDITIONAL US SPACES FOR PILOT TRAINING, ENGINEERING, LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT AND LIMITED OTHER COURSES. MISSION RECOMMENDS US FAVORABLY CONSIDER SENEGALESE REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

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2. SENEGALESE DISPOSITION TOWARD EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH US HAS BEEN IN INCREASING EVIDENCE OVER PAST YEAR. THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENT SENEGALESE EFFORT TO PLAY MORE CONSISTENT MODERATING ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO AMERICAN INTERESTS ON POLITICAL LEVEL. SENEGALESE OPENING TOWARD US WAS STIMULATED BY

CONCERN OVER SUCH RECENT AFRICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AS ANGOLA AND DANGER TO SENEGAL PERCEIVED IN SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ROUND OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING PAST TWO YEARS HAS HELPED NOURISH SENEGALESE RECEPTIVITY TOWARD COOPERATION WITH US. CURRENT POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD US ALSO REFLECTS CONVERGENCE OF OTHER FACTORS INCLUDING PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S STRONG INTEREST IN PROMOTING TIES TO BLACK COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE AFRICA FOR CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, AND MORE GENERAL EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY GRADUALLY DEPENDENCE ON FRANCE AS PRIMARY TRADING AND INVESTMENT PARTNER.

3. IMPULSE TOWARD INCREASED COOPERATION WITH US HAS ENCOMPASSED SECURITY CONCERNS, WHERE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TO DATE IS SENEGAL'S EXPECTED ACQUISITION OF AMERICAN MATERIEL UNDER FMS CREDIT TO REPLACE OBSOLETE ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS. SENEGALESE HAVE ALSO ATTACHED HIGH SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE TO VISITS BY US NAVAL VESSELS SUCH AS FEBRUARY 10-12 VISIT BY USS JONAS INGRAM (DAKAR 1137). SIMULTANEOUSLY, US-SPONSORED IN-COUNTRY ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SENEGALESE MILITARY HAS PROVIDED USEFUL VEHICLE FOR MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING BILATERAL CONTACTS. CONTINUING PROGRAM HAS ESTABLISHED POOL OF NEARLY 100 OFFICER AND NCO GRADUATES WITH BASIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. AS NOTED IN 1976 PARA PAPER, THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN REGARDED AS PROBABLE STEPPING STONE TOWARD COMMENCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN US. PROJECTED BUDGETS HAVE ENVISAGED SENDING OF ONE OR TWO STUDENTS FROM SENEGALESE MILITARY TO 27-WEEK ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR COURSE IN CONUS (FIRST STUDENT ENROLLED UNDER THIS PROGRAM DEPARTED SENEGAL FOR US MARCH 20).

4. SENEGALESE SEE INCREASED CONUS TRAINING AS ADVISABLE IN VIEW OF EXPECTED ACQUISITION OF NEW US ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND AS NATURAL COMPLEMENT OF INCREASED COOPERATION TAKING PLACE IN OTHER SECTORS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. EMBASSY TRANSMITTING VIA SEPTTEL OFFICIAL SENEGALESE REQUEST FOR PILOT TRAINING, AND SPACES IN ENGINEER, ARMOR AND FIELD ARTILLERY ADVANCED OFFICER COURSES, INTELLIGENCE AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT COURSES AND NAVAL STAFF COURSE. SENEGALESE INTEREST IN US PILOT TRAINING IS PARTICULARLY STRONG AND ENTHUSIASTIC AND, ON COST BASIS, PILOT TRAINING REPRESENTS BULK OF GOS REQUEST. AIR FORCE COMMANDER SECK HAS STRONG PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO INITIATING US PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM AND HAS MADE PARTICULAR POINT

OF STRESSING TO EMBASSY OFFICERS SENEGAL'S FRIENDSHIP FOR US AND ITS DESIRE TO WORK INCREASINGLY CLOSELY WITH US IN WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS. (SECK HIMSELF VOLUNTEERED TO FLY ALEX HALEY PARTY TO GAMBIA ON RECENT VISIT AND PILOTED CHARTER AIRCRAFT IN WHICH AMBASSADOR MADE RECENT TRIP TO SENEGAL ORIENTAL REGION.)

5. MISSION'S VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF FAVORABLE US RESPONSE TO MODEST SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM SENEGALESE MILITARY WERE SET FORTH IN DETAIL IN PART I OF ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (PARM) TRANSMITTED IN DAKAR 2698. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT USG MAKE AVAILABLE FMS TRAINING FUNDS NECESSARY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SENEGALESE REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

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